

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Official Action of July 16, 2007, Applicant offers the following submissions and enclosed amendments.

Amendments

Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that the encoded data has pixels values for all pixels in the visible image. The encoding system used by the present invention encodes each visible image with all the color value data needed to recreate the entire image. This is discussed in detail at page 10 lines 5 to 12.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

35 USC §103

Claims 2 to 6 stand rejected as obvious in light of US 6,304,345 to Patton et al, and US 6,894,794 to Patton et al in view of US 6,160,642 to Mui et al, in further view of US 6,437,849 to DeClerck et al.

Amended claim 6 is restricted to a scanner that generates the image data for reproducing the original image using only the encoded data printed in invisible ink on the visible image. The encoded data has pixel information for all pixels in the visible image and is redundantly encoded to account for partial obliteration of encoded data due to wear and tear on the photo.

None of the cited references reproduce the original image using only the encoded data. The '345 reference detects encoded data regarding the original color values of a specific area of the visible image. The scanner reads the encoded data to determine the original color values and compares them to the scanned color values. From the changes in value, the processor generates a change model that it applies to all the scanned color values. Obviously, this system relies on the inks fading uniformly. If the specified area has faded differently to the remainder of the image, or has been partially obliterated by folding or scratches, an error is introduced into the change model that then applied to the entire image. Accordingly, the reproduced image is not the same as the original, but an approximation of it.

Similarly, '794 to Patton, Mui and DeClerck do not disclose encoding all the pixel values for the image in a fault tolerant manner for subsequent decoding and precise image reproduction of the true original image data.

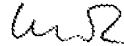
Accordingly, the citations do not support a §103 rejection of amended claim 6. Likewise, claims 2-5 are also distinguished from the prior art by virtue of their dependence from claim 6.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection has been successfully traversed. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

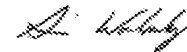
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